



# NEWS RELEASE

**Today's Date:** Tuesday, May 12, 2015

**District:** 05 – Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz Counties

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## CALTRANS AWARDS \$9.8 MILLION TO SUPPORT TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

**CENTRAL COAST** – Caltrans has awarded \$9.8 million in Sustainable Transportation Planning Grants to support cities, counties, agencies and transit operators in their efforts to integrate transit, bicycling and walking into their local transportation plans.

These grants will allow planning for mobility, accessibility and connectivity of multimodal options such as light rail, bus service, biking or walking. \$1.5 million will fund partnership efforts to solve statewide or interregional transportation issues in the state highway system.

"At Caltrans, we are supporting sustainability at every stage, from planning to project construction to funding for bike and walking paths," said Director Malcolm Dougherty. "Together, this funding will lead to more livable and economically vibrant communities across California."

Sustainable transportation planning projects funded by this grant identify and address areas that lack viable transit or multimodal options, actively engage stakeholder collaboration and public engagement in their planning efforts and help Caltrans provide a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system to enhance California's economy and livability. The Grant recipients in Caltrans District 5 include:

- **San Luis Obispo County** - Halcyon Road Complete Streets Plan. This project will develop a plan to improve safety and mobility within this corridor between US Highway 101 and State Route 1 which serves as a major route between Arroyo Grande and the Nipomo Mesa.
- **Santa Barbara County** - The Goleta Ramp Metering Project would study the effectiveness of metering access to US Highway 101 through the City of Goleta and the unincorporated Eastern Goleta Valley during peak period congestion to reduce travel times.
- **Santa Barbara/San Luis Obispo Counties** – The Santa Maria/San Luis Obispo Transportation Connectivity Plan will evaluate the demand for transit service, carpooling and vanpooling between southern San Luis Obispo County and the Santa Maria/Orcutt area

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in northern Santa Barbara County.

- **Santa Cruz County** - This planning project will use innovative and effective community engagement techniques to help define the benefits of a sustainable transportation system, transportation funding needs and short/long term priorities. This will include focus groups and ambassadors representing a broad cross section of the community.
- **Monterey County** – The State Route 68 Corridor Plan will evaluate current and future travel patterns between Salinas and the Monterey Peninsula, the feasibility of improvements in this corridor and the feasibility of wildlife connectivity enhancements. This process will include public meetings and online outreach efforts.

These grants were awarded in April, pending budget approval. For a complete list of grant recipients, visit <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/tpp/documents/AwardList.pdf>.

These grants may lead to active transportation projects that encourage biking and walking. Last year, the California Transportation Commission allocated more than \$360 million for locally administered Active Transportation Program projects.

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